

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ACDA-07
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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6104

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2878

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN SL

SUBJECT: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 205678, (B) FREETOWN 2863

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULAI CONTEH, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HARRY WILLAIDS AND PRINCIPAL MINISTRY OFFICIALS SEPTEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REF-TEL A ON MIDEAST, SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, PUERTO RICO, GUAM AND NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. COPY OF TALKING POINTS COVERING ALL ITEMS ALSO LEFT WITH MINISTER. AMONG DIFFERENCES NOTED IN US AND GOSL POSITIONS ARE ADEQUACY OF UN RESOLUTION 242, RESTRICTING COMMUNICATIONS WITH RHODESIA, PACE OF NAMIBIAN NEGOTIATIONS, NON-USE OF FORCE TREATY, AND APPOINTMENT OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. DURING MY PRESENTATION, MINISTER CONTEH MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

A. MIDDLE EAST - GOSL'S BASIC POSITION IS THAT EVERY NATION HAS A RIGHT TO EXIST. HOWEVER, GOSL IS CONCERNED WITH AMBIGUOUS WORDING OF UNGA RESOLUTION 242. PALESTINIANS ARE NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, ONLY REFERENCE IS TO REFUGEES. GOSL
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WOULD HOPE PLO COULD PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE EVEN IF PLO DOES NOT ACCEPT 242. ATTENDANCE OF PLO DELEGATION AT GENEVA WOULD CONSTITUTE SOME DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BY PLO AND WOULD BE A NEGATION OF PLO CHARTER. GOSL EXPECTS MAJOR EFFORT BE UNDERTAKEN IN 32ND UNGA TO CONDEMN ISRAELI WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS AND HOPES USG WILL ISSUE STATEMENT SAYING SUCH SETTLEMENTS ARE ILLEGAL.

B. RHODESIA - GOSL MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN NATIONALIST POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN ZIMBABWE. GOSL SUPPORTS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE SOLE MILITARY LEADERSHIP, NOT THE SOLE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS DIVERSE AND INCORPORATES MANY GROUPS. GOSL SEES LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT CAN IMPOSE ITS POLITICAL WILL ON OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS IN ZIMBABWE. GOSL SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO ISOLATE RHODESIA COMPLETELY TO INCLUDE RESTRICTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS. LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS IN RHODESIA IS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR PRESENCE IN A COUNTRY WHERE NO DIPLOMATIC MISSION OR REPRESENTORY POWER IS PRESENT.

C. APARTHEID - MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE HELPING SUSTAIN APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. GOSL HOPES CONGRESS WILL INITIATE LEGISLATION PROHIBITING INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

D. NAMIBIA - GOSL DISAPPOINTED AT THE SLOW PACE OF PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE. NEGOTIATIONS BY CONTACT GROUP ALSO SHOULD INCLUDE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY FORCES AND RESTORATION OF WALVIS BAY TO NAMIBIA.

E. PUERTO RICO - CONTEH ASKED IF USG WAS PREPARED HOLD A REFERENDUM ON STATUS OF PUERTO RICO. IF SUCH A REFERENDUM WAS HELD HE BELIEVED CUBA'S CHARGES AND ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED BY OTHERS. CONTEH WELCOMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT INDICATING THAT US READY TO ACCEPT ANY STATUS FOR PUERTO RICO WHICH PUERTO RICANS MAY DESIRE.

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F. GUAM - GOSL HOLDS SAME POSITION AS USG BUT CONTEH DID RAISE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MILITARY BASES ARE APPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

G. DISARMAMENT - NUF TREATY WOULD NOT WEAKEN CHARTER OBLIGATIONS AND, TO THE CONTRARY, WOULD EMPHASIZE TO MEMBERS THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER CHARTER. CONTEH BELIEVES TREATY DESIREABLE.

H. HUMAN RIGHTS - GOSL DOES NOT BELIEVE A HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE NAMED. SELECTING A PERSON WHO WOULD BE IMPARTIAL AND ACCEPTABLE TO ALL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT. RATHER, GOSL WOULD PREFER TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING MACHINERY OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

I. NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE - GOSL BELIEVES BOTH RESUMED 31ST AND 32ND UNGA WILL BE USED AS A SOUNDING BOARD BY LDC'S TO ADVANCE THEIR CONCERNS.

3. I WAS IMPRESSED WITH BOTH THE OPENESS AND THE KNOWLEDGE WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEH DISPLAYS. HE WAS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN OUR POINTS OF VIEW AND BECAUSE OF HIS BACKGROUND AS A LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, WELL VERSED IN MANY OF THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE UNGA. I STRONGLY URGE THAT USUN MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CLOSE RAPPORT

WITH THE MINISTER. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.
LINEHAN

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